

supported without significant deflection or indentation of pillow body 12. After stuffing the fill material within cover 32, the cover 32 may be closed by creating an exterior seam line 36. However, other techniques could be used as well. For example, a zipper could be used in place of an exterior seam. Also, the pillow could be constructed of an inflatable bladder having a fabric or padded cover.

[0020] Because of the stitching around well region 16, it does not receive any fill material. Hence, well region is formed of fabric cover 32 that extends between upper section 22, lower section 24 and side sections 26 and 28 which are stuffed with the fill material. As such, padded region 14 extends vertically above well region 16. In this way, when an infant is placed onto pillow 10, the infant's bottom will rest in well region 16, with bottom section 24 helping to prevent the infant from sliding down off the pillow. Side sections 26 and 28 help prevent the infant from moving from side to side. Upper section 22 provides cushion and support to the infant's back and head while also placing the infant in an inclined position.

[0021] It will be appreciated that various other techniques may be used to construct pillow 10. Merely by way of example, pillow 10 may be constructed using techniques similar to those described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,261,134; 5,661,861; 6,038,720; 6,055,687; 6,434,770; 6,352,612; 6,279,185; 6,412,128; 6,453,493; and 6,523,200; and in copending U.S. Application Nos. 10/046,377, filed October 26, 2001, 09/884,742, filed June 18, 2001, 09/679,139, filed October 3, 2000, 09/802,097, filed March 8, 2001, 10/426,067, filed April 28, 2003 (Attorney Docket No. 017242-010700US); and 10/1012,210, filed on the same date as the present application (entitled "Multi-Use Pillow and Methods", Attorney Docket No. 017242-010900US). The complete disclosures of all these references are herein incorporated by reference. Also, the overall shape of pillow 10 may be varied. For example, as shown, the corners are rounded. However, other shapes may be used as well. The overall shape could be square, rectangular, oval, round, and the like. In one aspect, the pillow may be generally round, and may have a diameter of about 24 inches.

[0022] Pillow 10 may be constructed in a variety of sizes depending on the size of the baby. As one example, for infants ranging from about 3 pounds to about 18 pounds or until the baby can push up on their hands or knees or roll over on their own accord, pillow 10 may have a length from lower section 24 to upper section 22 that is in the range from about 14 inches to about 24 inches, and more preferably from about 17 inches to about 19 inches. Pillow 10 may have a width between side sections 26 and 28 that is in the range from about 8

infant from sliding down. The infant's back and head rest on upper section 22 and are upwardly incline. The side sections 26 and 28 prevent the infant from moving from side to side. Hence, pillow 10 permits the infant to remain in a comfortable, yet secure orientation. The configuration of pillow 10 also give the infant a certain amount of security and support to help keep the infant calm. Besides helping to change a diaper, pillow 10 may be used to help hold the baby while sleeping, while awake, while eating, and the like.

[0027] Although not shown, it will be appreciated that other modifications may be made to pillow 10, such as by providing one or more pockets to hold items such as pacifiers, bottles, cloths and the like. Further, various attachment mechanisms, straps and the like may be coupled to pillow 10 to hold or suspend items. For instance, toy bars could be used to suspend objects over the infant as described in copending U.S. Application No. 09/802097, filed 03/08/2001, the complete disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference. Other attachments may include any of those described in the references incorporated herein. As another example, one or more handles could be coupled to the pillow to facilitate carrying of the pillow. Examples of suitable handles are described in the references incorporated herein.

[0028] As shown in Fig. 5, pillow 10 may be stored in a protective cover 50 that may also serve as packaging for pillow 10. Cover 50 may be constructed of a transparent plastic and have a zipper 52 at a top end 54 to permit pillow 10 to be inserted into and removed from cover 50. Cover 50 may be provided with a similar shape to pillow 10 and may have handles 56 to permit it to be easily carried.

[0029] Alternatively, pillow 10 may be packaged and stored using a variety of other packing devices, purses or the like. Examples of such packages and bags are described in references incorporated herein and in copending U.S. Application No. 09/884,742, filed June 18, 2001, and 10/012,206, filed on the same date as the present application (entitled "Diaper Bag and Carrying ^{Device} Case", Attorney docket No. 017242-010800US), incorporated herein by reference. Pillow 10 may also be displayed using any of the techniques or devices described in U.S. Patent No. 6,119,873 incorporated herein by reference.

[0030] The invention has now been described in detail for purposes of clarity and understanding. However, it will be appreciated that certain changes and modifications may be practiced within the scope of the appended claims.